

TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2016

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee
Pete Vander Poel, Board Alternate Representative
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee
Roger Everett, At-Large Appointee
Larry Peltzer, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative

Staff Present:

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager
Marit Erickson, County Counsel

Members of the Public Present:

Ken Bowers
Bob Irvine
Richard Garcia
Tricia Stever Blattler
Aaron Facuda
Dezaraye B.
Vincent Salinas
Kristin Dobbin
Shane Smith
Michael Hickey
Kevin McCusker
Michael Tharp
Brittany W.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Public Comment Period

None at this time.

3. Approval of November 9, 2015 minutes

Commissioner Boyer provided a handout with minor corrections. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested changes, second by Commission Kapheim. Motion approved.

4. Update on the Joint Groundwater Subcommittee

The committee is composed of four members of the Water Commission and four members of the Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee. Edward Needham, member of APAC, is the committee Chairman and was present to give a brief update. The committee met right before the Water Commission meeting and reviewed mapping information provided by County staff. They are still looking in to a potential interim ordinance and felt that they may come to a decision at their next meeting.

5. Subcommittee Reports

None at this time.

6. Staff Reports

- a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - i. Implementation in Tulare County

Denise England stated that the Greater Kaweah group met at the Kaweah Delta Conservation District and looked at a skeleton JPA.

Commissioner Kapheim shared that the East Kings group will be having a public hearing in March to initiate the GSA. They added one more irrigation district. There are 15 local agencies now, 3 cities, 2 counties, and 5 drinking water agencies.

Denise England wanted to note that there have been two basin boundaries submitted. One is from the Kern Tulare Water District. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Schafer gave a report on the Tule Sub Basin. They have two jurisdiction boundaries under consideration. They will be further discussed at their public outreach meeting on the 4th of February.

- b. Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Communities Study

Denise England shared that the Department of Water Resources reauthorized or extended the contract for Tulare County. There was a meeting held in October. The next meeting will be Monday, January 25th at 4:30 here in the conference rooms.

- c. Drought update

Denise England stated that there was a decrease in reported number of well failures. As of January 4 there was 1028 well failures. At one point there was about 1900 wells reported dry. Staff went back and found close to 200 that were duplicate records.

7. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Boyer shared that he went by East Porterville and was happy to see water in the Tule River. He checked the releases in the paper and wondered if the Porter Slew is a possibility to divert water to East Porterville.

Commissioner Schafer stated that Tule River flows were being discharged through the Porter Slew. They were releasing water because of flood control restrictions.

Chairman Ishida was in Fresno last Friday meeting with the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority. They have formed a JPA to move forward the Temperance Flat project.

Commissioner Kapheim asked if there was support among the Friant units for Temperance Flat.

Chairman Ishida said it was split. The JPA is formed of various County Supervisors. There will be a technical advisory committee potentially made up for irrigation district members. Those details are being settled out now. Supervisor Worthley was elected Chairman for the JPA.

8. Next meeting – Monday, February 8, 2016, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.